

**Gathering Song:** VU 79 Arise Your Light is Come

**Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle**

One: We gather in the warmth of so much light this day. We gather in the light of the Christ candle, remembering that the light of Christ's life is always present. It is always there, inviting us to notice.

And we gather this day in the light of our Peace Candle for, through his life, Christ taught us to live in peace with all Creation. As the congregation of Knox United, we are grateful to live in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all Treaty People committed to living together in peace and friendship with the lands, waters, and peoples of Mi'kma'ki.

**Lighting of the Affirmation Candle**

One: And through our Affirmation Candle, we celebrate the light of Christ that shines in us! In all of our diversity, Christ shines forth in this world, and God names this *good*. And so, this day, as we do each time we gather as a community of faith, we celebrate that:

**Welcome**      All are welcome in this place.  
                         **All are welcome by God's grace.**

**Call to Worship**

One: Across scripture, song, and prayer, God calls us to bring tenderness into all our encounters.

**All: We have heard the call of God, who whispers an invitation to lay our burdens down.**

One: Through newscasts, newsfeeds, and newspapers, God calls out to us: respect one another!

**All: We have heard the call of the teacher, Jesus, who shows us how to love and serve. May the God of many names grant us great humility in this day and age.**

One: With humbleness and courage, with tenderness and strength, let us worship God!

**Opening Prayer** (*a choral reading of 1 Corinthians 13*)

One: Gracious God, you teach us that if we speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love,

All: I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

One: And if we have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if we have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love,

All: I am nothing.

One: If we give away all our possessions, and hand over our bodies so that we may boast, but do not have love,  
All: I gain nothing.

One: Gracious God, teach us these words again:

Love is patient; love is kind;

All: love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

One: Love does not insist on its own way; Love is not irritable or resentful;

All: Love rejoices in the truth.

One: Love bears all things,

All: Love believes all things,

One: Love hopes all things,

All: Love endures longer than all things.

One: For, Love never ends.

**All: May these teachings and this Love be written on our hearts, this day and always.**

Amen.

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** VU 372 Thou I May Speak

Prayer of Confession:

One: At this time, we bring to God the confessions of our hearts not because God needs us to, but because *we* need to. Let us pray our Prayer of Confession together, and then make space for our personal reflections in silence. If the prayer speaks to your life, sit with those revelations and pray with them. If not, let the prayer go with a prayer for those who find it does fit. Let us bring to God the confessions of our hearts.

**All: Loving God, we confess:**

**The times when we ignore your presence;**

**The times when we try to do it all on our own;**

**The times when we try to exclude others from your love;**

**The ways in which we close our ears and hearts to the Good News.**

**Forgive us.**

**Restore us.**

**Open us to the News that could change our lives and the world.**

**This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen. (*A time of silent prayer*)**

Words of Assurance:

One: People of God, receive the gift of God's Good News: God knows you even better than you know yourself. And *still*, you are loved. No matter what you have done, or not done, you are loved. So may you live your life differently from this day, trusting in the truth that you are loved, and you are forgiven!

May you share God's blessing with all you meet, in all you do and say and think, remembering:

**All: We are a loved and forgiven people! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Hymn**— Love Our Neighbour (*Words: © 2017 Catherine MacDonald*)

**Time for All Ages**

**Hymn:** VU 575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

**Announcements**

**Offering Invitation**

**\*\*Offertory Response-** MV 191 What Can I Do?\_

**\*\* Offering Dedication:**

**All: Gracious God, thank you for all the blessings that touch our lives! We are so grateful! From the blessings you give, we offer our gifts of time, talents, and finances to you in gratitude and humble trust, that they may be used to reflect your love and care here in Sackville, and across this world. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:** MV 83 Let My Spirit Always Sing

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Scripture:**

Farrell

Luke 4:22-30

Offered by Heather

The Word of God for the People of God

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection:**

Nelson

**- Rev. Penny**

**Hymn:** VU 333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**\*\*Blessing:**

One: Let us go from this worship knowing that we are blessed: blessed with a love that knows no bounds; blessed with a community that welcomes all; blessed with a hopefulness; blessed with a quest and passion for justice for all God's people and for God's creation. Bursting with blessing, we go into the world to *share* these blessings with all we meet. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**\*\*Parting Song:** MV 214 May God's Sheltering Wings

**OUR MISSION  
TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE  
BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:**

**showing mercy,  
promoting justice,  
offering forgiveness,  
acceptance, and hope.**

## **Our Vision...**

We, the congregation of Knox United Church, publicly proclaim our commitment to become an open and welcoming community of faith. We declare that we welcome everyone regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Everyone is welcome here.

Through the process of honouring diversity and challenging injustice with those who bear the weight of discrimination, we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education, love, and acceptance.

Christ's Disciples in Ministry: Everyone  
Minister of Worship, Faith Formation, and Outreach: Rev. Penny Nelson  
Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Kym Burke  
Minister of Music & Dramatic Arts: John Lindsay-Botten  
Church School Superintendent: Lynne Stewart  
Youth Group: James O'Connell  
Pastoral Care: Olive McIlldoon & Judy Hayes

567 Sackville Drive (PO Box 210) Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S9  
Office: 902.865.9216 Hall/Kitchen: 902.865.1603 Fax: 902.865.0599  
In the case of pastoral emergency, please dial 902.865.2617  
office: [admin@knoxsackville.ca](mailto:admin@knoxsackville.ca) website: [www.knoxsackville.ca](http://www.knoxsackville.ca) [facebook.com/knoxunited](https://www.facebook.com/knoxunited)

+ Call to Worship adapted from Laura Turnbull, Penticton United, Penticton, BC. *The Gathering: A/C/E 2018-19*, Pg. 47. Used with permission; Opening Prayer adapted from Katherine Hawker's "Epiphany 4C" prayer <<https://liturgyoutside.net/ep4c/>>; Prayer of Confession written by Beth W. Johnston, while at Hantsport Pastoral Charge, Hantsport, NS. From *The Gathering: A/C/E 2015-2016*, pg.42. Used with permission; Words of Assurance written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2016. Offering prayer written by Rev. Penny Nelson, 2022 while at Knox United Church, Lower Sackville.